

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 7-33, 35-50, and 57-66 without prejudice or disclaimer.

1. (Previously presented) A laser, comprising:
a cavity which repeatedly passes light energy along a cavity axis;
a length of multi-mode optical fiber having a cladding and doped with a gain medium and positioned along said cavity axis;
a pump coupled to said cladding for exciting said gain medium; and
an optical guide positioned on said cavity axis which confines the light amplified by said multi-mode optical fiber to preferentially the fundamental mode of said multi-mode optical fiber.

2. (Previously presented) A laser as defined in Claim 1 additionally comprising a mode locking mechanism positioned on said cavity axis, wherein said mode locking mechanism comprises a passive mode locking element.

3. (Previously presented) A laser as defined in Claim 2 wherein said passive mode locking element comprises a saturable absorber.

4. (Previously presented) A laser as defined in Claim 3 wherein said saturable absorber comprises InGaAsP.

5. (Previously presented) A laser as defined in Claim 3 additionally comprising a power limiter for protecting said saturable absorber.

6. (Previously presented) A laser as defined in Claim 5 wherein said power limiter comprises a two photon absorber.

7. – 54. (Canceled)

55. (Previously presented) A method, comprising:
circulating light energy within a laser cavity;
amplifying said light energy within said laser cavity in a bent multi-mode fiber; and
confining said light energy within said laser cavity substantially to the fundamental mode of said multi-mode fiber.

56. (Previously presented) A method as defined in Claim 55 additionally comprising mode locking said light energy.

57. – 66. (Canceled)